Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ~~method~~ tangible computer readable storage medium having computer executable instructions for facilitating the transfer of back-up copies of one or more files from a first computer to a second computer via a communications network including the Internet and via a portable computer readable storage medium, comprising:

instructions for designating files from the first computer for which back-up copies will be transferred to the second computer, said the first computer and said second computer being Internet-enabled;

instructions for receiving, at the first computer, user input defining destination identification data;

instructions for identifying an Internet location of the second computer as a function of the defined identification data;

instructions for selectively transferring, based on a total size of the files being transferred, the designated files ~~and file data~~ from the first computer to the second computer or to [[a]] the portable computer readable medium;

wherein the designated files ~~and file data~~ are directly transferred from the first computer to the second computer at the identified location via ~~a communication network~~ the Internet when a total size of the files being transferred is less than a target amount, said instructions for selectively transferring including instructions for causing, during file transfer, the second computer to be directly accessed via the Internet, without establishing communication via a server, by the first computer and without passing through any intermediate computer between the first and second computer, and

wherein the designated files ~~and file data~~ are transferred from the first computer directly to the portable computer readable storage medium when the total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target amount;

receiving, at the second computer, the selectively transferred files ~~and file data~~, wherein said received files ~~data~~ includes authentication data for determining whether the first computer is authorized to store back-up copies on the second computer; and

storing, at the second computer, the received files when the first computer is determined to be authorized.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended):   The ~~method~~ medium of claim 1 wherein the instructions for receiving, at the second computer, include[[s]]:

~~delivering the portable computer readable medium having transferred files and file data stored thereon to a user of the second computer; and~~

instructions for transferring the files from the ~~delivered~~ portable computer readable storage medium directly to the second computer for storage.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ medium of claim 1, wherein instructions for designating files includes instructions for displaying a first input form on a display linked to the first computer, said first input form receiving input data from a user, and said input data designating the one or more files to be copied and transferred to the second computer.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ medium of claim 1, wherein ~~first~~ instructions for selectively transferring files include instructions for encrypting the designated files prior to transferring the designated files to the portable computer readable storage medium or to the second computer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ medium of claim 1 wherein instructions for selectively transferring files further includes transferring authentication data to the portable computer readable storage medium when the total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target size.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ <u>medium</u> of claim 6, wherein the <u>instructions for</u> receiving includes retrieving first authentication data from the portable computer readable <u>storage</u> medium and <u>instructions for</u> retrieving second authentication data from the second computer, wherein said first authentication data defines a first password and said second authentication data defines a second password, and <u>instructions for</u> comparing the first password to the second password to determine if the passwords match, and wherein the one or more files are stored on the second computer if the first and second passwords are determined to match.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ <u>medium</u> of claim 7 further including <u>instructions for</u>:

retrieving, at the second computer, a first identification tag from the portable computer readable <u>storage</u> medium, said identification tag being randomly generated by the first computer to identify the one or more files to be transferred from the portable computer readable <u>storage</u> medium to the second computer;

sending an authentication request including the first identification tag to the first computer via the communication network;

receiving, at the first computer, the authentication request and the first identification tag;

comparing, at the first computer, the received first identification tag with an second identification tag being stored on the originating computer to determine if the tags match, wherein the second identification tag corresponds to a tag previously generated by the first computer to identify a particular file or particular set files being transferred to a portable computer readable <u>storage</u> medium;

requesting, at the first computer, input from an originating user to confirm back-up is authorized if there is a matching tag;

sending a reply including the user input to the second computer via the communication network; and

determining whether the first computer is authorized as a function of the user input included in the reply.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ <u>medium</u> of claim 1 wherein <u>instructions for</u> storing files includes <u>instructions for</u> retrieving storage amount data and file storage data from a destination database, said storage amount data defining a maximum amount of storage space available on the second computer for storing files transferred from the first computer, and said file storage data specifying a current amount of storage space on the second computer being used for storing files from the first computer, and wherein <u>instructions for</u> storing files further comparing the storage amount data to file storage data to determine if storage space is available, and wherein the back-up copies of the one or more designated files stored on the portable computer readable <u>storage</u> medium are stored on the second computer if storage space is determined to be available.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ <u>medium</u> of claim 1, wherein <u>instructions for</u> designating files for transfer further includes <u>instructions for</u>:
        designating a destination identifier associated with the second computer;
        designating storage schedule data for back-up copies; and
        storing the back-up copies of the designated one or more files, the designated destination identifier, and/or the designated storage schedule data in an originating database.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ <u>medium</u> of claim 10, wherein <u>instructions for</u> designating files includes <u>instructions for</u> displaying a first input form on a display linked to the first computer, said first input form receiving input data from a user, and said input data designating the one or more files to be copied and transferred to the second computer, designating the one or more back-up times, and/or designating the destination identifier.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ <u>medium</u> of claim 1 further comprising <u>instructions for</u>:

retrieving one or more stored files from the second computer in response to a request received from the originating user;

transferring the retrieved files to the portable computer <u>readable storage</u> medium; and

delivering the portable computer <u>readable storage</u> medium to the originating user.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A ~~method~~ <u>tangible computer readable storage medium having computer executable instructions</u> for facilitating the transfer of back-up copies of one or more files from a first computer <u>via a communications network including the Internet</u> to a ~~second~~ <u>destination</u> computer <u>remote from the first computer</u>; comprising <u>instructions for</u>:

designating files from the first computer for which back-up copies will be transferred to the ~~second~~ <u>destination</u> computer;

receiving, at the first computer, user input defining a destination identification data;

identifying a location of the ~~second~~ <u>destination</u> computer as a function of the defined identification data;

<u>transferring the designated files from the first computer to the second computer via the Internet when the transferred files are less that a target amount;</u>

transferring the <u>designated</u> files from the ~~verified~~ first computer <u>directly</u> to a portable computer readable <u>storage</u> medium <u>when the files are greater than the target amount</u>; <u>and</u>

~~selectively delivering the portable computer readable medium to a user of the destination computer;~~

<u>transferring the designated files directly from the portable computer readable storage medium to the destination computer when the files are greater than the target amount</u> ~~based on an amount of data in the one or more files to be transferred, wherein the portable computer readable medium is physically delivered to the destination user when the amount of data to be transferred is greater than or equal to a target amount, and wherein the one or more files are transferred from the first computer to the second computer via a~~

~~communication network when the amount of data to be transferred is less than the target~~ ~~amount~~.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The ~~method~~ <u>medium</u> of claim 13 ~~wherein the originating~~ ~~user determines~~ <u>further comprising instructions for permitting a user of the first computer</u> <u>to specify</u> the target amount

<u>wherein the designated files are transferred from the first computer to the second computer</u> <u>via the Internet when the transferred files are less that the user specified target amount and</u> <u>wherein the designated files are not transferred from the first computer directly to a</u> <u>portable computer readable storage medium when the files are less than the user specified</u> <u>target amount and wherein the designated files are not transferred directly from the</u> <u>portable computer readable storage medium to the destination computer when the files are</u> <u>less than the user specified target amount; and</u>

<u>wherein the designated files are not transferred from the first computer to the second</u> <u>computer via the Internet when the transferred files are greater that the user specified target</u> <u>amount and wherein the designated files are transferred from the first computer directly to</u> <u>a portable computer readable storage medium when the files are greater than the user</u> <u>specified target amount and wherein the designated files are transferred directly from the</u> <u>portable computer readable storage medium to the destination computer when the</u> <u>designated files are greater than the user specified target amount.</u>

Claim 15 (new): A method for facilitating the transfer of back-up copies of one or more files from a first computer via a communications network including the Internet to a destination computer, comprising:

Identifying a first computer;

Identifying a destination computer;

Providing a portable computer readable storage medium removable and separate from the first computer and the destination;

designating files from the first computer for which back-up copies will be transferred to the destination computer;

receiving, at the first computer, user input defining destination identification data;

identifying a location of the destination computer via the Internet as a function of the defined identification data;

transferring the designated files from the first computer to the destination computer via the Internet when a total size of the files being transferred is less than a target amount;

receiving at the destination computer the transferred files via the Internet, wherein said received files include authentication data for indicating to the destination computer that the first computer is authorized to store back-up copies on the destination computer;

transferring the designated files from the first computer to the portable computer readable storage medium when the total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target amount;

transferring the portable computer readable storage medium including the designated files transferred from the first computer to the destination computer; and

transferring the designated files from the portable computer readable medium to the destination computer.

Claim 16 (new). The method of claim 15 further comprising designating by a user of the first computer the target amount.

Claim 17 (new). The method of claim 15 further comprising identifying files on the destination computer to be restored to the first computer including:

transferring the files to be restored from the destination computer to the first computer via the Internet when a total size of the files being transferred is less than the target amount;

receiving at the first computer the transferred files to be restored via the Internet;

transferring the files to be restored from the destination computer to the portable computer readable storage medium when the total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target amount; and

receiving at the first computer the transferred files to be restored via the portable computer readable storage medium.

Claim 18 (new). The medium of claim 17 further comprising instructions for:

identifying files to be restored from the destination computer to the first computer;

transferring the files to be restored from the destination computer to the first computer via the Internet when a total size of the files being transferred is less than the target amount;

receiving at the first computer the transferred files to be restored via the Internet;

transferring the files to be restored from the destination computer to the portable computer readable storage medium when the total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target amount; and

receiving at the first computer the transferred files to be restored via the portable computer readable storage medium.

Claim 19 (new). The medium of claim 18 further comprising designating by a user of the first computer the target amount.

Claim 20 (new). The medium of claim 15 further comprising instructions for:

identifying files to be restored from the destination computer to the first computer;

transferring the files to be restored from the destination computer to the first computer via the Internet when a total size of the files being transferred is less than the target amount;

receiving at the first computer the transferred files to be restored via the Internet;

transferring the files to be restored from the destination computer to the portable computer readable storage medium when the total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target amount; and

receiving at the first computer the transferred files to be restored via the portable computer readable storage medium.

Claim 21 (new). The medium of claim 20 further comprising designating by a user of the first computer the target amount.

Claim 22 (new). A method for facilitating the transfer of back-up copies of one or more files from a first computer via a communications network including the Internet to a destination computer, comprising:

a first computer;

a destination computer;

a portable computer readable storage medium removable and separate from the first computer and the destination;

a first computer readable storage medium having computer executable instructions executed by the first computer, said instructions for:

designating by a first user of the first computer a target amount;

designating files from the first computer for which back-up copies will be transferred to the destination computer, said designating by the first user of the first computer;

receiving, at the first computer, user input defining destination identification data;

identifying by the first user of the first computer a location of the destination computer via the Internet as a function of the defined identification data;

transferring the designated files from the first computer to the destination computer via the Internet when a total size of the files being transferred is less than the target amount designated by the user of the first computer wherein the designated files are not transferred to the portable computer readable medium when a total size of the files being transferred is less than the target amount designated by the user of the first computer;

transferring the designated files from the first computer to the portable computer readable storage medium when the total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target amount designated by the user of the first computer wherein the designated files are not transferred from the first computer to the destination computer via the Internet when the total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target amount designated by the user of the first computer;

a second computer readable storage medium having computer executable instructions executed by the second computer, said instructions for:

        receiving at the destination computer the transferred files from the first computer via the Internet and not via the portable computer readable storage medium when a total size of the files being transferred is less than the target amount designated by the user of the first computer, wherein said received files include authentication data for indicating to the destination computer that the first computer is authorized to store back-up copies on the destination computer;

        receiving at the destination computer the transferred files from the portable computer readable storage medium and not via the Internet when a total size of the files being transferred is greater than the target amount designated by the user of the first computer, wherein said received files include authentication data for indicating to the destination computer that the first computer is authorized to store back-up copies on the destination computer.